

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT NO

TOPIC

Schoenefeld Airfield

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**DO NOT CIRCULATE**

1. Between 5 September and 11 October 1952, hangars 11 through 15 at Schoenefeld airfield were not occupied. No aircraft were observed on hardstand 28.<sup>1</sup> About 6 Li-2s and PO-2s were parked on hardstand 35 and up to 4 Li-2s were observed next to the runway. On 9 September, between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m., two Li-2s from hardstand 35 practiced taking off and landing. No searchlights were in operation; only the runway lights were switched on. The same night flying was performed as on 11 September. One PO-2 plane practiced flying between 7 and 11 p.m. Between 7:30 and 11:30 p.m. on 12 September, an Li-2 practiced taking off and landing.
2. Between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 15 September, one PO-2 made take-offs and landings at the field. On 19 September, three Li-2s practiced flying between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. During the air activity, a radio truck was parked beside the runway. After landing, the planes taxied to the dispersal area at the runway. There, the crews got out of the planes and went to their billets. It could not be observed that motor vehicles moved to the planes or that the planes were being unloaded. No unloading operations were observed in the late evening or at night. On some days, source made his observations at 11 p.m. and at midnight. Source believed that only courier flights were made.<sup>2</sup>
3. In September, no change was observed in the air activity performed by commercial planes of the civilian airlines.<sup>3</sup>

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4. At about 8 a.m. on 22 September, 5 sedans and 8 trucks moved toward the field.

The truck drivers wore red epaulets. The [redacted] all the vehicles were parked in front of the club building, [redacted] of the guard detail already stood.<sup>4</sup> About 10 officers got out of the sedans. A short time after arrival of the vehicles, a whistle sounded, whereupon the members of the guard unit, in full field equipment, wearing red epaulets, assembled in front of the club building. The soldiers in three groups of 36 men marched from the club building to the athletic field. The officers, including 2 colonels and 2 lieutenant colonels, also went to the athletic field. There, a close inspection of equipment and footwear was held. After the

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inspection, the three groups marched around the athletic field for three hours while a band played march music. At the same time, the officers inspected vehicles. The vehicles left the field about 4 p.m.

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1.  Comment. For location of hangar and hardstand, see sketch attached to

2.  Comment. The Li-2 and PO-2 type planes belong to a military unit of the air transport unit which performs transport and courier flights.

3.  Comment. Schoenefeld airfield is the German terminal for civilian aircraft of the Russian Airlines Aeroflot and of various airlines of the satellite countries.

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